of workers are being maintained.

Haj Pilgrim Ship

@3057. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stop the service of Haj Pilgrim Ship;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof; and

(c) wheher Government propose to provide subsidy for the Haj Pilgrims in the wake of the cancellation of ship service and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Plight of retired railway employees

@@3058. SHRI N. RAJANGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight of the Railway Employees who retired on a pay of less than Rs. 500/- per month and opted for CPF in lieu of pension;

(b) whether the Fourth Pay Commission had recommended ex-gratia payment of Rs. 300/- per month with effect from 1.1.1986 to such retired employees in view of the inequality of the benefit under CPF schem vis-a-vis libralised pension scheme;

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, whether Government have taken a decision in this regard; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when a decision will be taken in this regard so as to ameliorate the lot of these retired employees most of whom are living below the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Fourth Central Pay Commission in Part-II of its Report had recommended grant of ex-gratia payment of Rs. 300/- per month w.e.f. 1.1.1986 to all CPF beneficiaries who retired prior to 31.3 85 with a basic pay up to Rs. 500/- per month at the time of retirement.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Offer of high technology from U K.

@@@3059. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom have offered high technology without any precondition for India;

(b) if so, whether the offer is acceptable to the Government of India and, if so, when it will be implemented; and

(c) which areas have been identified for a technology mission in India with the assistance of United Kingdom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Government of India and the United Kingdom have been engaged for some time in discussions about Technology Co-operation. The matter is under negotiation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2195 transferred from the 16th March, 1988.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2290, transferred from the 16th March, 1988.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 1915, transferred from the 14th March, 1988.